

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows:

1. Cancel
2. (New) A method of supplying bagged ice, comprising the steps of:
 - a. supplying a bag for bagging ice; and,
 - b. identifying said bag via means for bag identification.
3. (New) The method of Claim 2, wherein said step of identifying said bag via said identification means comprises a computer-controlled sensor for reading and measuring indicia carried by said bag for yielding a first measured value, said sensor selected from the group consisting of photoelectric eyes, laser eyes, laser technology and barcode technology.
4. (New) The method of Claim 3, further comprising the step of reading and measuring a distance between said indicia via said sensor for yielding a second measured value.
5. (New) The method of Claim 4, further comprising the step of comparatively analyzing said first and second measured values against computer-defined pre-programmed values to identify and verify the authenticity of said bag for ice-filling purposes.

6. (New) The method of Claim 5, further comprising the step of permitting said bag to be filled with ice only if said first and second measured values correspond to said pre-programmed values.

7. (New) The method of Claim 5, further comprising the step of prohibiting said bag from being filled with ice if said first and second measured values do not correspond to said pre-programmed values.

8. (New) The method of Claim 5, further comprising the step of permitting said bag to be filled with ice even if said first and second measured values do not correspond to said pre-programmed values.

9. (New) A bag for use in an ice making, bagging and storing machine, said bag comprising:

a first indicia carried by said bag, said indicia readable and measurable via means for sensing to identify and verify the authenticity of said bag for use in the ice making, bagging and storing machine.

10. (New) The bag of Claim 9, wherein said bag comprises at least a second indicia, said second indicia also readable and measurable via said sensing means.

11. (New) The bag of Claim 10, wherein said sensing means comprises a computer-controlled sensor for reading and measuring said first and second indicia carried by said bag for yielding a first and second measured value, respectively, said sensor selected from the group consisting of photoelectric eyes, laser eyes, laser technology and barcode technology.
12. (New) The bag of Claim 11, wherein said sensor reads and measures a selected distance between said first and second indicia for yielding a third measured value.
13. (New) The bag of Claim 12, wherein said sensor first reads and measures said first indicia, then said selected distance, and then said second indicia.
14. (New) The bag of Claim 13, wherein said first, second, and third measured values are comparatively analyzed against computer-defined pre-programmed values to identify and verify the authenticity of said bag for use in the ice making, bagging and storing machine.
15. (New) The bag of Claim 14, wherein said bag is permitted to be utilized in the ice making, bagging and storing machine only if said first, second and third measured values correspond to said pre-programmed values.
16. (New) The bag of Claim 14, wherein said bag is not permitted to be utilized in the ice making, bagging and storing machine if said first, second and third measured values do not correspond to said pre-programmed values.

17. (New) The bag of Claim 14, wherein said bag is permitted to be utilized in the ice making, bagging and storing machine even if said first, second and third measured values do not correspond to said pre-programmed values.

18. (New) The bag of Claim 14, wherein at least one of said first and second indicia is a label section.

19. (New) The bag of Claim 14, wherein at least one of said first and second indicia is selected from the group consisting of colors, barcodes, shapes, reference characters, letters and numbers.

20. (New) A method of identifying a bag for use in an ice making, bagging and storing machine, said method comprising the steps of:

- a. obtaining a bag comprising a first indicia carried thereon; and,
- b. utilizing a computer-controlled sensor to read and measure said first indicia to identify and verify the authenticity of said bag for use in the ice making, bagging and storing machine.

21. (New) The method of Claim 20, wherein said bag further comprises at least a second indicia, said second indicia also readable and measurable via said computer-controlled sensor.

22. (New) The method of Claim 21, further comprising the step of permitting said computer-controlled sensor to read and measure said first and second indicia to yield a first and second measured value, respectively.

23. (New) The method of Claim 22, further comprising the step of permitting said computer-controlled sensor to read and measure a selected distance between said first and second indicia for yielding a third measured value.

24. (New) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the step of permitting said computer-controlled sensor to first read and measure said first indicia, then said selected distance between said first and second indicia, and then said second indicia.

25. (New) The method of Claim 24, further comprising the step of comparatively analyzing said first, second, and third measured values against computer-defined pre-programmed values to identify and verify the authenticity of said bag for use in the ice making, bagging and storing machine.

26. (New) The method of Claim 25, further comprising the step of permitting said bag to be utilized in the ice making, bagging and storing machine only if said first, second and third measured values correspond to said pre-programmed values.

27. (New) The method of Claim 25, further comprising the step of prohibiting said bag from being utilized in the ice making, bagging and storing machine if said first, second and third measured values do not correspond to said pre-programmed values.

28. (New) The method of Claim 25, further comprising the step of permitting said bag to be utilized in the ice making, bagging and storing machine even if said first, second and third measured values do not correspond to said pre-programmed values.

29. (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein at least one of said first and second indicia is a label section.

30. (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein at least one of said first and second indicia is selected from the group consisting of colors, barcodes, shapes, reference characters, letters and numbers.

31. (New) An ice-bagging apparatus, comprising:
a slider box configured to receive ice from at least one icemaker, said slider box adapted to slidably transport the ice for subsequent deposit of same into a bag.